

Lions/Rotary Senior Dinner and Light Tour a Big Success



The Senior Dinner and Light Tour was well attended
Photo Credit: Vic Sample

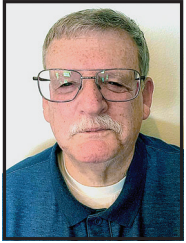


Rotary and Lions members served the meals: Rotarian Eileen Roy, Rotarian Diane Brown, Lion Laura Knaff, at a quiet moment
Photo Credit: Vic Sample

Victor Sample

The annual Lions and Rotary Senior Dinner and Light Tour dates back to 2006. Members of the Lions Club brought forward the idea of sponsoring a dinner for the Townsend Area Senior Citizens and doing a tour of the Christmas Lights in Townsend.

The event has grown to be a two-night event. This year, the dinner/light tour served over 80 seniors. Rides to the event were provided to those seniors who asked for help getting to the event. Poinsettias were sent to



the homes of those who were unable to attend.

Nineteen years later, the event is still a popular and well attended event. The Lions Club and Rotary Club co-sponsor the dinner at the Townsend Senior Center. This year, the dinner was catered by Angie Wintrow and her crew. A wonderful dinner consisting of salad, ham, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn and all the coffee/tea/water we could drink was served by members of the Lions and Rotary clubs. Each attendee received a bag of holiday cookies to enjoy and take home - if they didn't eat them all immediately.

One of the always enjoyable highlights of the dinner is a spirited “competition” between the Lions and

Rotary about the history, membership and community projects completed by both clubs. This year, Gary Olsen represented the Lions Club and Jeff Langlinais represented the Rotary Club.

After the dinner, the Seniors were taken on a tour of the Townsend Christmas Lights. The Townsend Schools activity bus was available for Seniors that were able to board the bus. Billings Clinic Broadwater provided their transportation van for those seniors not able to board the bus.

Everyone in attendance had a wonderful time! Thank you, Lions and Rotary members, for another memorable dinner and light tour.

REMEMINDER
REMEMINDER
REMEMINDER

~*~

EARLY HOLIDAY EDITION DEADLINE NOTICE FOR MT43 NEWS CONTRIBUTORS

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Ad Date & Time

Article Date & Time

Print Date

Fri. 12.19.25 @ 2PM

Mon. 12.22.25 @ 12PM

Fri. 1.2.26

New Year Edition

Megan Bleile named Coach of the Year for State Class B Volleyball

Article on Page 2



Coach of the Year Megan Bleile, center, with her assistant coaches, Aliece Estrada, left, and Cayla Rueb, right.
Kelly Morris Photography

Local Actors Provide a Laugh a Minute at Dinner Theater

MT43 News Staff Reporter

If you like comedy theater Saturday night at the Lodge was your cup of tea. Actors from Winston and Townsend kept a standing room only audience laughing from the time they began their “business meeting” until the murder of Santa was solved.

Flirty Sally, played by Rehanna Olson, worked at enticing board member Brad (Pat Plantenberg) and sheriff (Zach Johnson) to join her for mistletoe mischief while board chairwoman Lee(Renee Bauer) did her best to keep the meeting moving along. Lyz (Chloe Johnson), who is Flirty Sally’s conservative daughter, works at trying to keep her mom in line.



Dinner Theater Actors back row from left: Chloe Johnson, Angela Johnson, Rehanna Olson and Pat Plantenberg. Front row from left: Renee Bauer, Zach Johnson and Candice Marchetta.
MT43 News Photo

Suddenly, everyone notices a terrible smell coming from under the office table: board members discover a box containing the dead Santa Claus. As the sheriff arrives, so begins questioning of who killed Santa, including strategically placed members of the audience. With Candice Marchetta’s sign coaxing, reaction from the crowd continues to goad the actors into even more antics. Finally, Flirty Sally confesses and all’s well that ends well.

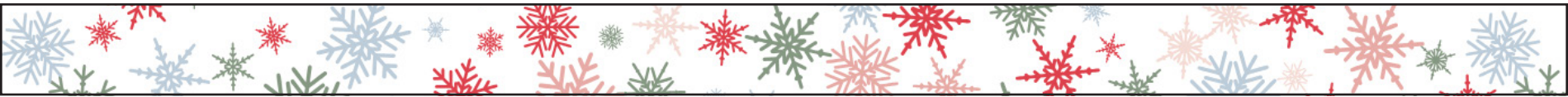
An excellent four- course dinner, cooked by Broadwater Community Theater board members, ended with beautifully decorated cupcakes and cookies from baker Brenda Phillips’s kitchen. Sponsors are Jak’s Heating and Art, East Helena; Nancy Marks, Bill Kearns Estate, Patrick Plantenberg and Mary Mistek, Beth Ihle, Townsend Rotary, Jeanne Mainwaring, Jan Hubber, Ron and Mary Ann Salladay, Judy Schenk, Opportunity Bank, STOKE, John Hahn, Bob Saxby, Brian and Laura Obert, Chuck McLane, Dwight and Julie Thompson and Retired Teachers’ Group.

BCT board members would like to thank their



The ‘business meeting’ in progress while a mysterious box lurks under the table during the “Mistletoe Incident,” a play for the season at the Lodge Saturday night. From left: Renee Bauer, Pat Plantenberg, Angela Johnson, Rehanna Olson and Chloe Johnson.
MT43 News Photo

sponsors and all who made the night successful. Theater board members encourage new actors and theater enthusiasts to join the group for fun involvement in ongoing productions. For more information, please visit the BCT website or call LaRinda at (406) 475-4016.






May Your Days Be Merry and Bright!



To all our loyal customers,
Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and May God Bless you all!



303 N Front St
Townsend, MT
(406) 980-8400



Fun Fact

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the top three states for growing and selling Christmas trees are Oregon, North Carolina and Michigan. The most popular kinds of trees sold are Fraser firs, Douglas firs, Balsam firs, Colorado Blue Spruce and Scotch Pine.

Sources: www.nass.usda.gov, forestry.about.com

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at the Fish Tale Tavern backroom,
Saturday December 20
from Noon until 4:00pm (or later).
Many local vendors with great ideas for your last minute gifts.

Treat yourself to lunch and shopping local with Broadwater County vendors.
Lunch special starts at Noon.



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Merry Christmas



visit our website for more information!



20 Trailhead View Dr
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Candle Light Christmas Eve Service

★ 4:30pm ★



A Gift For



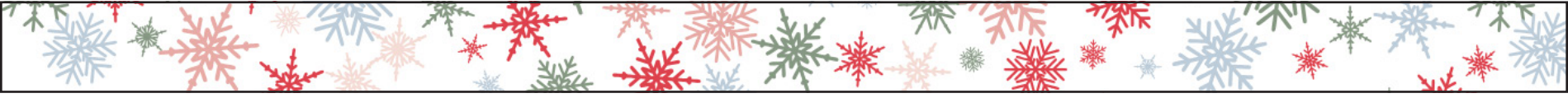
BROADWATER COUNTY COMMUNITY

Free Christmas Dinner

DECEMBER 25TH AT 12 PM
DELIVERED TO YOU

TO ORDER: SCAN THE CODE OR CALL 406-266-4406





Coach of the Year, Picture on Page 1

MT43 News Staff Reporter

The Montana Coaches Association has announced its Coach of the Year Awards for the Fall Season in all sports. Townsend Schools own Megan Bleile has been selected as the 2025-2026 Coach of the Year for State Class B Volleyball. This prestigious honor is a selection by peer coaches throughout the state, a coveted title.

A native of Belt, MT, Mrs. Bleile teaches Mathematics at BHS. She took over the volleyball program in 2019, having had previous coaching experience at Butte Central High School, Joliet, and Capital High in both volleyball and track. In the seven years she's been coaching in Townsend, Bleile has led the team to the state tournament five times, bringing home two 3rd place trophies and two 2nd place trophies. This year the team finished 2nd at State and had a 21-5 season record.

But it's not all about the hardware or placings. Megan modestly claims, "Without the girls' commitment and dedication, we couldn't have gotten that 2nd place finish. I just give them the tools to be successful, and they go out and execute. I also couldn't have earned this without the help of my amazing assistant coaches, Aliece Estrada and Cayla Rueb."

Coach Bleile's philosophy is to focus on the whole student-athlete's success on and off the court. Together, she and her assistants work on building character for the girls' future successes. Their goal is to transform

young women to be authentic in their relationships, be responsible leaders, and live with a passion that will change the world. Both in and out of the classroom, she emphasizes hard work, accountability, and discipline while building relationships. Bleile knows successful programs start at the top. Summers are spent devoting hours to off season training for building the teams from Little Dogs to Big Dogs by organizing VB camps and securing top notch college athletes to help run them. All in addition to following her own two boys who are active in baseball, football and wrestling. Her husband John is a huge support and biggest cheerleader.

Bleile's philosophy has had an impact. According to senior player Emmalin Fischer, "Megan Bleile is an amazing coach! She put a lot of work into our team to make us better, and got to know each and every one of us on a different level. Coach Bleile said over State week and weekend 'you guys are going to do something special this week. And she was right. She always believes and never gives up. And that makes a great coach!'"

Coach Bleile will receive her award along with a plaque and ring at an awards ceremony July 30, 2026, during the 59th MCA Multi-Sport Clinic in Great Falls. Her assistants and spouse will also be recognized with a certificate in honor of their supportive contributions throughout the season.

Congratulations on a well-deserved honor, Megan! We're Bulldog proud of you.

PLAYERS of the WEEK





Speech and Drama:
Noah Borror
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Wrestling: Nick Humphreys
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Girls Basketball: Kaitlyn Noyes
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Boys Basketball: Tavyn Anderson
Townsend Booster Club Photo

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A Talented Illustrator in Our Midst



Angel Rodriguez of Art of the Angel Productions puts the finishing touches on window art at the new Bird's Nest.
MT43 News Photo

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Speaking of volunteering, Angel Rodriguez of Art of the Angel has added the finishing touches to the windows at the Bird’s Nest on Broadway. The detailed windows portray a snow-white Santa and a shining Christmas tree, just in time for the Christmas Stroll last Saturday. The talented man, who has been drawing since he was in grade school, has had no professional training in art. He began his career in the tattoo arts but built his skills in woodworking. He and his family have lived in Townsend for six months, having moved here from Helena. The 45-year-old was born in Puerto Rico and moved to this country many years ago to become a citizen. He now operates a small shop at the Bird’s Nest, thanks to owner Gena Berry. He does small



Art of the Angel artist Angel Rodrigez finishes his window painting complete with a snowman in time for the annual Christmas Stroll.
MT43 News Photo

woodworking jobs and operates a handyman business. Rodriguez can be reached at (406) 438-6892 or by calling the Bird’s Nest.

National Wreaths Across America Day Celebrated at Fort Harrison



First 5 of ten wreaths honoring veterans left - right, US Army, US Marine Corps, US Navy, US Air Force, and US Space Force.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Matt Nelson



On Saturday, December 13th, there was an indoor ceremony at the Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center at Fort Harrison to honor our military veterans who have perished, followed by the laying of wreaths at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery. This occurred simultaneously while wreaths were laid at the national ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Quoting from the Program, “A minute of silence is observed to remember the fallen, the prisoners of war, the missing in action, and to honor those who have served and are serving in this great nation’s armed forces.” WreathsAcrossAmericaTM is a national organization that was started at Arlington in 1992 with the laying of 5000 wreaths that had been donated by Maine businessman, Morrill Worcester. Now, the laying of wreaths occurs at 3,702 locations across the country. In 2022, 2.7 million wreaths were placed; 1600 were placed at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery on this day. The ceremony and the laying of the wreaths were hosted by the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association. Also, according to Patty Donoho, a member of the Oro Fino Chapter in Helena of the Daughters of the American Revolution, “We are a wreath sponsor for Wreaths Across America.” Another sponsor at this ceremony was the MTPMAA, the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association (MTRidetoRemember.org). They have been the main sponsor for the eleventh consecutive year. During the Summer, approximately 200 members ride their motorcycles from Helena to Yellowstone to honor the POW/MIA veterans.

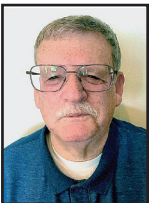


Townsend resident Al Christophersen was one of 40 people reading out names of veterans who have perished since 9-11. He is standing next to Barb Crabtree.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

At the indoor ceremony, Rubin Ackerman, the Recording Officer of the MTPMAA, welcomed all of those present, followed by Randy Welch, the Vice-President, who gave the Invocation and Benediction prayers. Boy Scout Troop 207 led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Charmaine Lindgren led the Singing of our National Anthem. Navy veteran Barb Crabtree called out for 10 memorial wreaths to be posted by representatives of the US Army, US Marine Corps. US Navy, US Air Force, US Space Force, US Coast Guard, US Space Force, US Coast Guard, US Merchant Marine, POW/MIA, White Star, and Gold Star. About 40 people lined up to read the names of 44 Montana service members fallen since 9/11. A few people read two names. Follow this, Lisa Juvik Leland, the President of the MT POW/MIA Awareness Association gave closing remarks, and after that everyone was dismissed to go to the Montana State Veterans Cemetery, where somebody played TAPS on a bugle, and later on in the day the 1600 wreaths were actually placed on the graves of our fallen heroes. It was an emotional experience just being there.

Wine Tasting at the Betsy

Victor Sample



On December 16, Doug Sitton and Chase Ragen hosted the Christmas-themed monthly wine tasting event at The Betsy. This wine tasting marked the 27th wine tasting. The Betsy was full on that night with people attending the event. As always, the wine and food were excellent. The wine at the event was supplied by George’s Distributing out of Helena. Vivian Boaz catered food for the event, and the wine/food pairing was terrific. The Betsy Bar area is closed for the event, and Jodi Toney decorated The Betsy with a beautiful Christmas theme.

Every wine tasting features at least 6 wines: 3 white wines and 3 red wines. Occasionally, a seventh wine is added to the list. Host Doug Sitton always opens the event with a welcoming to those in attendance, a small statement about the purpose of the event, and a little history of the event. Doug then introduces the representative(s) from George’s Distributing. This night we had Katie and David from George’s Distributing.



Katie and David from George's Distributing along with Host Doug Sitton
Photo Credit: Victor Sample

David, from George’s Distributing, introduces each wine in turn and discusses the vintner, the grape(s) used, and what we should expect to taste in the wine. After the introduction to the wine, the wine is poured. Doug, David and Katie went to each table pouring a “tasting” of the wine. A tasting is about a third of a standard glass of wine.

In the past, charcuterie boards filled with food were provided and served buffet style. After receiving many requests to do wine/food pairing, the event has switched from buffet-style charcuterie boards to catered food that pairs with the wine served to each table – a plate at each end.



A well attended event with almost every table filled
Photo Credit: Victor Sample

Information sheets for each featured wine are placed at either end of the table, and each attendee is given a sheet listing the wines and their prices. The attendees are encouraged to rate each wine. At the end of the event, the attendees can optionally purchase wines by indicating on the sheet the number of bottles of each wine they intend to purchase. Payment is made at the bar. Doug will then pick up the wines from George’s and bring them to the Betsy. They are usually there by Wednesday or Thursday following the event.



A fun group of ladies enjoying the wine tasting
Photo Credit: Victor Sample

If you don’t happen to like wine – gasp – the event does not discriminate. If you prefer to drink beer or hard liquor, the bar is open, and you can drink what you would like.

Every wine tasting is an opportunity to try new wines, share a glass (or 6) with friends and to make new friends! If you would like to try coming to the wine tasting event, watch the marquis at The Betsy or ask a friend who has been going how to join us – you will have a great time!

Townsend School & Sports

DECEMBER

Fri 19 - Sat 20

- High School Wrestling at Great Falls - CMR

Friday 19

- NO SCHOOL
- 3:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Whitehall

Saturday 20

- Speech and Drama at Choteau
- 1:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Manhattan Christian

Sunday 21

- 3 on 3 Youth Basketball Tournament - Stage Gym and 63 Gym

Mon, Dec 22 - Fri, Jan 2

- NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

Mon 29 - Tue 30

- 10:00 am: Middle School Girls Basketball Camp - 63 Gym

East Helena Schools & Sports

DECEMBER

Friday 19

- Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball at Hamilton Tip-Off
- 1:30 pm: **EARLY RELEASE**

Saturday 20

- Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball at Hamilton Tip-Off

Mon, Dec 22 - Fri, Jan 2

- NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Tuesday 23

- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting

Wednesday 24

- 10:00 am: Commission Meeting

LIBRARY HOURS

Broadwater School and Community Library

HOURS:

Monday-Thursday: 4:00 - 7:00pm

Friday-Saturday: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday: 12:00 - 5:00pm

Curbside also available please call: (406)441-3461

Books & Babies Story Hour: Mondays 11-00am.-12:00pm the first 4 Mondays of the month.

CLOSED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DAYS.



201 N Spruce St, Townsend
Photo Provided

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS

Andrea Eckerson
Branch Manager

HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday: 10 am- 6:00 pm.

Thursday and Friday: 10 am- 5:00 pm

Saturdays: 10 am-1:00 pm

Sundays: Closed



Lewis & Clark Library East Helena Branch, 16 E Main Street in East Helena.
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

DECEMBER

Fri 19 -Sat 20

- 1:30 pm: Kids' Holiday Shopping. All items \$1.00

Wednesday 24

- 10:30 am: Kids Storytime
- 3:00 pm: Close

Thursday 25

- CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

Tuesday 30

- 1:00 pm: Kids Movie Time

Wednesday 31

- 10:30 am: Kids Storytime
- 3:00 pm: Close


Thu, JANUARY 1

- CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR

FUND RAISER FOR HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands Townsend has served Townsend with thrift stores since 2016 and has given the community over \$112,000 in aid during that time. Our stores have provided volunteer opportunities as well as a place to buy necessary items at reasonable prices. Since renting a building is unpredictable, we are launching a capital campaign to raise funds to purchase a building large enough to house both of our thrift stores. **It's time for us to buy our own HOME!** As we are a 501(c)(3) organization, your donations to HHT are tax deductible. Donate today by depositing funds in "Helping Hands Building Fund" at Opportunity Bank. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila at Helping Hands Townsend 4 KIDS & U2 Thrift Store or call 406-422-6043

ATTENTION!



Top Gun Auto Body Townsend is offering Gift Certificates for Vehicle detailing.

Call 406-266-3110 or stop by 7675 US Hwy 287 in Townsend!

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Friday 19

- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Coffee Nook

Saturday 20

- 4:30 pm: Last Chance Local Christmas Market and Lunch Special at Fish Tale Tavern, 209 Broadway **SEE AD ON PAGE 2**
- 5:00 pm: Big Sky Culinary Classes and Catering Host a Gourmet Dinner at The Lodge of Townsend
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Mon 22 - Tue 23

- 11:00 am: **FREE** Hot Lunch and board games for ALL school-aged kids & teens @ Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway, Townsend **INFO ON THIS PAGE & PAGE 7**

Tuesday 23

- 5:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club
- 5:30 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Wednesday 24

- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 4:30 pm: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at Trailhead Church, 20 Trailhead View Dr **SEE AD ON PAGE 2**

Thursday 25

- FREE** Christmas Dinner Delivered **SEE AD ON PAGE 2 TO ORDER**
- 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 26

- 2:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Coffee Nook

Saturday 27

- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Mon 29 - Tue 30

- 11:00 am: **FREE** Hot Lunch and board games for ALL school-aged kids & teens @ Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway, Townsend **INFO ON THIS PAGE & PAGE 7**

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: January 15th, 7:00PM
At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
See Board Meeting Agenda at: <http://www.facebook.com/BroadwaterCountyVolunteerFireDepartment>

EGGS!

Eggs for sale! \$4.00 Dozen - Toston area
Call and leave message and I'll call you back.
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Could buy outright, trade for what I have or will consider other options.
Call Dick at 406-581-5635. Please leave message if no answer.

LOCAL WORK HELP WANTED

Farm Help Needed: Harvesting and Haying
Contact Leonard 406-949-0208

Job Posting

Toston Irrigation District is hiring a person to maintain and distribute water.
Contact Leonard at
406-949-0208 or by email tid@mt.net




MT43 News is reaching out to our East Helena supporters in hopes to expand your local news!

Please send your stories and free event information to mt43news@mt43news.com or call 10am - 2pm, Monday - Friday!

Holiday Hot Lunch and Hangout: Free Winter Break Meals and Fun for Townsend Youth

Rachael Brug



School's out, but the spirit of community is in full swing this holiday season at Reading Leaves Bookstore! Family Promise of Townsend, Fishes & Loaves of Townsend, and Reading Leaves Books are teaming up to offer a special series of events: Holiday Hot Lunch and Hangout—a free, drop-in lunch and playtime for all school-age kids and teens.
Mark your calendars for December 22 & 23 and again on December 29 & 30, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., when Fishes & Loaves will be serving up free hot lunches at Reading Leaves Bookstore. Kids are invited to come in from the cold, enjoy a delicious meal, and stick around to play board games with family and friends, or try their hand at a craft project. PTA and community volunteers will be on hand to help serve and join in on the fun—whether that's explaining the rules of a new board game or lending a hand with crafts.
Rachael Brug, owner of Reading Leaves Bookstore, shares, "With the general tightness of budgets lately and food insecurity being relatively high, we wanted to help in some way. We thought hot lunches over the long winter break with an opportunity to get out of the house for some free fun would be just the ticket."
Fishes & Loaves, a local food ministry, is making these meals possible thanks to the generosity of group members and a network of independent contractors. Any extra food will be donated through local churches and food pantries.
Family Promise Townsend/Broadwater County, known for supporting families in crisis, is also a key partner—helping keep local households safe and stable, and connecting families with vital resources. To get in touch with Family Promise, contact Family Promise of Greater Helena: Townsend and Broadwater County at 406.465.9467
No registration is required—just drop in! Please note, children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult.
Don't miss this chance for good food, community connection, and a warm place to gather during winter break. For more information, contact Reading Leaves Bookstore or visit their Facebook Page @ [readingleavesbooks](#).



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DOUBLE DIAMOND FABRICATION

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BROADWATER COUNTY

Dates and times may vary due to events, seasons or holidays. Call the restaurant with any questions. Happy Dining!

American Legion Hall 211 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-3611 Dining Hours: Tuesday Bingo/ Bowl & a Roll 5:00PM SPECIAL Event with Food: Saturday 11/22/25 @ 1:00PM FREE Thanksgiving Dinner Bar hours may vary	Commercial Bar 101 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-9956 Dining Hours: 10:00AM - 2:00AM Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Menu available on Facebook	Mint Cafe 305 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3867 Dining Hours: Mon - Wed 8:00AM - 2:00 PM, Thur - Fri 8:00AM - 8:00PM Sat - Sun 7:00AM - 8:00PM SPECIAL: N/A
The Betsy Sports Zone 217 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-0001 Dining Hours: Tue-Sun 11:00AM-Close Closed Monday Takeout placed only in person. Menu: www.betsysportszone.com	Copy Cup 303 N Front St, Townsend (406) 980-8400 Please call in business hours. Drinks and Pastry Hours: Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 3:00PM Sat 8:30AM - 2:00PM Closed Sunday	Mountie Moose Bakery 109 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-5800 Dining Hours: Tue - Sat 7:00AM - 4:00PM Closed Sunday & Monday Online Ordering: Mountie-moose-bakery.square.site
Bread and Butter Cafe 205 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3025 Dining Hours: Tue - Fri 7:00AM- 2:00PM Sat 7:00AM- 12:00PM Closed Sunday & Monday Menu available on Facebook	Deep Creek Pizza Co. 415 Broadway Ste 2, Townsend (406) 266-0002 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 8:00 PM Closed Sunday Menu: deepcreekpizzaco.com Accepting Orders Online	Mountain Grounds Coffee (406) 475-0672 401 Broadway, Townsend Dining Hours: Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 4:30PM Sat - Sun 8:00AM - 5:00PM Online Ordering: MTNGROUNDS.com
Bunkhouse Bar & Grill 8846 US-287, Toston (406) 266-5302 SPECIAL: N/A Dining Hours: 10:00AM – Close Grill off at 10:00PM	Fishtale Tavern 209 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-5582 Dining Hours: Tuesday 10:00AM - Midnight Wed - Sat 10:00 AM - Close Sunday 10:00 AM - Midnight Closed Monday Daily Specials: Facebook	Peking China 10 N Main St, Three Forks (406) 285-3225 Dining Hours: Mon - Sun 11:30AM - 8:30PM Menu: Google
Canyon Ferry Brewing & Taproom 300 Broadway, Townsend (406) 694-5687 Hours: Wed - Fri. 4:00PM - Close Sat and Sun 2:00PM - Close	Full Belli Deli 209 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-5459 Dining Hours: Mon - Sun 8:00AM - 7:00PM OPEN 4th of JULY	Rocky Mountain Supply Deli 7847 US Hwy 287, Townsend (406) 266-3456 Hot & Cold To-Go Hours: Mon-Fri6:00AM - 6:00PM Menu: Board Inside Store for Take-and Bake or Ready-to-Eat Pizza Call Ahead or Order Inside
C Hangin” C Mercantile & Creamery 310 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-9087 Dining Hours: Mon - Fri 7:30AM - 7:00PM Sat 8:00AM - 7:00PM Sun 9:00AM - 5:00PM Menu: Facebook changincmerc.square.site	Kick Start Nutrition 500 N Front St, Townsend (406) 266-0033 Dining Hours: Tue - Fri 7:00AM - 3:00PM Sat 9:00AM - 3:00PM Closed Sunday & Monday Daily Specials: Facebook & Instagram	TB’s Diner 316 N Front St, Townsend, (406) 266-0099 Dining Hours: Mon- Sat 7:00AM - 8:00PM Sunday 7:00AM - 7:00PM Specials: Facebook
		Vaquero’s Mexican Restaurant 219 Broadway St, Townsend (406)266-1860 Dining Hours: Tue - Sun 11:00AM - 9:00PM Closed Mondays Menu & Specials: Facebook Call Ahead or Order Inside

Broadwater Area Restaurants

Contact MT 43 News, Monday- Friday 10 - 2, if you would like to talk about how to add your dining location and open hours to our paper! 406.266.0086 | 408 Broadway, Townsend, MT

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: U equals G

GH LPO FWXGWTW WTWELFPZL
QYP RNL R JYWL'TW HPOVZ N
QNJWE-QPEV ENTGVW, G
UOWRR LPO'EW UOXXL-FXW.

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KNIGHT MOVES

O	E	T
I		T
T	S	L

Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Booster
TOCKER

Consume
ODUERV

Intellect
NABIR

Guide
CORSET

Here's a nice, practical gift for your child—guaranteed to _____ in a couple of hours.

TODAY'S WORD

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10:00AM - 2:00PM
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Weekly SUDOKU

5	6	7		8	1	3	4	2
			7		6			
	8		4	5			9	
	2		6	9			7	4
7			2	4	5		8	
			3		7	2		
4		9						1
		8			4		2	
	1		5	7			6	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

UNIVERSITY SUBSTITUTES

ACROSS

1 Small, sticky sheets
8 Sentimental souvenir
16 Bit of aquatic flora
20 In hitting position, in baseball
21 Haphazardly
22 Ringing thing
23 Providence university founded to educate
25 Not phony
26 Auld lang —
27 Wed.
28 Stale
29 Passover bread
30 Pixieish type
32 Nicer than a
38 Actress
41 Jeans, e.g.
42 Ridden horse
43 Located on a
46 Pooch or Yogi
48 Encyclopedia unit: Abbr.
50 Clueless
51 Cruise of film
52 Mine metals
54 Baseball Hall of Famer
56 Some Siouan people
58 Shakur of hip-hop
62 LAX stats
64 Little — ("Hairspray" girl)
65 Certain till bill
66 Title of a picture album featuring an Atlanta university?
70 Paella veggie
71 Singer Abdul
72 Org. offering tews
73 Inadequate leader of a Durham university?
80 Easter meat
83 Santa — (desert winds)
84 Tart garnish
85 Italian actress
86 NFL coach
88 Fort Knox bar
90 — deck (cruise ship part)
92 Cup edge
94 Actress Lena
95 Loud noise
96 Mega melee
98 Unable to escape from a New York university?
103 Routine
105 Animals of a region
106 Pretenses
107 Houston university attended for four complete years?
112 Tattoo fluid
113 Make ecstatic
114 "Way cool!"
115 Tazo drink
117 "Intolerance" star Lillian
120 TV imp
121 Simpson
121 Leave a New Haven university with no exit fee?
127 Kin of -trix
128 Able to do no wrong
129 Swiveled
130 Big name in private jets
131 Used a sieve on
132 Partner of Hutch
DOWN
1 Alehouses
2 Nashville's Grand Ole —
3 Wall builder, e.g.
4 Moist wipe
5 "Son of," in Arabic names
6 Successor of Roosevelt
7 Maltly brew
8 Kit — bar
9 Biblical verb ending
10 Sooner than, in verse
11 — -Man (arcade game)
12 Hair nets
13 Past puberty
14 Organizing expert Marie
15 First-aid pro
16 Chafe
17 Golf great called "The Merry Mex"
18 Like many a bored person's eyes
19 Permit
24 Early car inits.
29 Subway system
31 Winter woe
33 Mil. missions
34 Fissure
35 The Yoko of "Dear Yoko"
36 "Beetle Bailey" dog
37 Troop gp.
38 Plane flier
39 "La, — to follow so"
40 Sternward
44 Dog in Oz
45 X-rated stuff
46 Actress Mary — Hurt
47 Actor
49 Like loafers
53 Fix
55 Peru's capital
57 Went swiftly
59 Burst open, as corn
60 Lab gel
61 Very mean
63 Eye carefully
67 Lug
68 In addition
69 Gobbles up
70 Cali currency
73 Installed, as carpet
74 Totally wipe out
75 Document of English liberties
76 Metric mass, in brief
77 Give forth
78 Nixing mark
79 City in Oklahoma
80 Hawaiian dancers' garments
81 Wonderland girl
82 Long, thick heads of hair
87 Wishing to receive
89 Stale
91 Royal name of Norway
93 Sow or boar
97 Figure skater
99 Arles assent
100 Wolf Blitzler's channel
101 Chiang — -shek
102 Rapa — (Easter Island)
104 No longer ill
105 Hat for Frank Sinatra
107 Mutinous sort
108 Former senator Lott
109 Spiteful sort
110 Home for a 93-Down
111 Messy stacks
116 Dismounted
118 Search for
119 Lamarr of "Algiers"
121 Mil.
122 Mentalist
123 Celler
123 Khaki cousin
124 Certain till bill
125 Bouquets-to-order co.
126 Mendes of "Hitch"

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HOLIDAY HOT LUNCH



Hangout

@

Reading Leaves Bookstore

401 Broadway St. Townsend, MT

11 am - 1 pm

December 22 & 23

11 am - 1 pm

December 29 & 30

Free hot lunch for school-aged kids & teens

Play a board game with friends!

Townsend Bulldog PTA & community members will be on-hand to help, but please no unattended kiddos under 12.

Family Promise of Greater Helena Townsend/Broadwater County





Townsend School Board Addresses Attendance, Transportation, Policy Updates, and New Opportunities for Students

Rachael Brug

Staff Reporter



The Townsend School Board’s December meeting covered a range of important topics, from student attendance and transportation challenges to policy updates and new extracurricular opportunities. The board welcomed public comment at the outset, reminding attendees to avoid discussing individuals’ private matters in open session.

Transportation and Bus Maintenance

The board discussed recent issues with the district’s bus fleet. One bus was recently deemed inoperable due to undercarriage rust, and a spare from Bulldog Bus Lines was also out of service. Staff worked diligently to keep routes running, but the board acknowledged the hardship when a route is interrupted. Plans are underway to assess the value of the inoperable bus and to prepare a resolution for its disposal in January.

Attendance and Student Engagement

A significant portion of the meeting focused on attendance rates, with administrators emphasizing the link between classroom presence and academic achievement. Only first grade exceeded the district’s 95% attendance goal this month, with illness cited as a major factor. Staff use the Class Dojo platform to maintain communication with families and encourage regular attendance. The board reiterated that even excused absences count toward the state’s recommended 10% maximum for missed school days, as missed instruction can impact student progress.

Middle School Initiatives and Testing

Middle school staff discussed efforts to build relationships and support students through the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) framework. The board heard updates on recent standardized testing and ongoing efforts to introduce students to a variety of career paths. Attendance rates have dipped due to flu season, but staff are working to boost engagement, including plans for a hot chocolate celebration if all students pass their classes before winter break.

Facilities, Maintenance, and Safety

The board reviewed ongoing building maintenance, including boiler repairs and safety improvements in the elementary gym. A new maintenance contract is expected to save the district money in the long run and provide better emergency service. The board also discussed recent carbon monoxide sensor alerts, which were promptly addressed with help from local emergency services.

Policy and Personnel

Board members reviewed and updated several district policies, ensuring alignment with collective bargaining agreements and state law. The board also approved personnel changes, including coaching and substitute appointments.

New Opportunities and Elections

In a key decision, the board approved eighth-grade participation in individual high school sports and activities such as cross country, wrestling, and golf. The board also set the timeline for upcoming trustee elections, with a new one-year seat opening due to a trustee’s planned resignation.

The meeting concluded with thanks to staff, students, and the community for their continued support during a busy season.

Grant Writing 101

Allison Kosto



A couple of weeks ago, I wrote an article with potential sources of funding for agricultural businesses.

Looking for funding sources can be time-consuming, but the real work begins when you have selected a funding agency. Grants are often highly competitive so attention to detail and taking the time for a well thought out grant application is critical. I’ve written quite a few types of grants and had some success over the years. Here are a few of my top tips for writing grants.

Before you do anything, read the funder's grant guidelines. This is often called the “request for proposal” (RFP). Some funders may even request a pre-proposal, which is a much shorter application to evaluate if your proposed project fits their funding criteria. Some RFPs are cumbersome and lengthy, but understanding the organization’s goals, criteria, deadlines and requirements is critical. One piece missing from your application may be enough to drop you from the pool of applicants.

Next, start to put together the application. I recommend beginning with your project’s goals and objectives. If your goals do not match those of the funders, then it may not be worth the time and effort to put in a grant. When I’m writing grants, I’m very strategic in utilizing similar language that is in the RFP so that it is easy for grant reviewers to see that the project aligns with their organization or agency.

Another important component of the grant application is defining the need. Funders want to know why the project matters and how it will make a difference in the community or your business. They want to know if they provide funding for the project, that it would be put to good use and isn’t filling an unnecessary need. Keep it simple but utilize data or stories to illustrate the need.

Next, define measurable outcomes of your project. For example, saying that a livestock water development project will increase pasture utilization by 20% is more measurable than simply saying “cows will use the pasture better.” However, make sure that the outcome is truly attainable and something you can actually measure, because if your grant application is successful, then you’ll likely need to do a report at the end to report if you met your project goals and anticipated outcomes.

The budget is another vital component of a grant application. Funders want a big picture of how much the project will cost. Be specific. If you are asking for \$20,000 then break it down by how much each part of the project will cost. Be realistic but give yourself a little flexibility due to rising costs. Some grants, especially government grants, can take a while to process and results in costs increasing during this period. Also, don’t forget to consider labor as part of your budget. Don’t inflate your costs too much though, because that can be a big red flag for grant reviewers.

After you get a draft of your grant application done, ask someone to review it. I’d suggest asking someone who is familiar with your proposed project in addition to someone who is not. They will view the application through different points of view and provide excellent feedback, including project components that might be missing areas that are difficult to understand. Proofreading boosts professionalism and makes it clear to the funder that you are taking the application seriously.

Before you submit anything, reread the RFP one last time. Did you forget anything? Some grant applications will even ask for videos or supplemental materials such as tax returns, organizational officers or copies of deeds. Give yourself plenty of time to collect the materials that you need. A late grant application is almost certain not to be accepted.

Writing grants takes time and attention to detail. If you find this process overwhelming or lack the time to make it happen, there are professionals who can help with the process. In some cases, nonprofits can help you write grants if they fit within their organizational mission. An example of that is Montana Business Assistance Connection, our area economic development organization and Food & Ag Development Center, can sometimes help with grants that are business related. There are also for-profit organizations that write grants professionally. Some charge a flat or hourly rate for their time, while others may charge a percentage of the grant.

Grant writing classes are also offered periodically through various organizations and are a great way to learn more about the process if you are going to be writing multiple grants. While I’m not a professional grant writer, I’m also happy to help with proofreading or providing guidance on the grant process. Contact MSU Extension in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.



Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Broadwater County Commissioners



515 Broadway, Townsend
Meetings are held at the Flynn Building on 416 Broadway St.
Current and previously recorded meetings, official agenda, and minutes may be viewed on the website at <https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov>.

Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-3-202, the agenda must include an item allowing public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency conducting the meeting.

Public comments will be taken either in writing before the meeting or in person at the beginning of the meeting. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

OFFICIAL agendas are posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in the Courthouse (1st-floor bulletin board), on our website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov, in the window of the Flynn Building, and in the local MT43 Newspaper when possible to meet the publishing deadline.

Monday, December 22, 2025	
10:00 AM	Public comment on any subject not on the agenda, that the Commission has jurisdiction over
10:00 AM	Discussion/Decision, Robert D. Hartley Airport Hangar Lease
Tuesday, December 23, 2025	
10:00 AM	Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines
Thursday, December 25, 2025	
All County offices closed ~ Christmas Day	

The county strives to make the meeting available virtually but cannot guarantee access due to platform failure, internet interruptions, or other potential technological malfunctions

- Items for Discussion / Action / Review / Signature – Consent Agenda*
- Certificate of Survey review
 - Management – on-going advisory board appointments, by-laws approval, interlocal agreements and non-financial contract renewals
 - Claims/Payroll/minutes
 - County Audit / Budget
 - Mail – ongoing grants
 - Correspondence – support letters
 - Task Orders

Debi Randolph, Vice Chair
(406) 266-9270 or (406) 980-2050
drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov

Jesse Swenson
(406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213
jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov

Lindsey Richtmyer, Chair
(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834
lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov

E-mail: commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov
Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)
Please note: These meeting times/dates may change. Please check the county website

- Trust Board Meeting on January 6th at 11:30 AM
- Fair Board Meeting on January 8th at 5:00 PM
- Planning Board Meeting on January 13th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on January 13th at 6:00 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on January 20th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on January 21st at 6:00 PM

The Commissioners may be attending these board meetings (except the Planning Board)

Townsend School District Trustee Filing Period

Brad Racht

Superintendent Townsend Schools

The filing period for the May 5 Townsend Board of Trustee Election is open from December 11 to February 9. The election is May 5.

The election will be for two (2) trustees for a three-year term and one (1) trustee for a one-year term.

A Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy for Trustee Candidates may be picked up at the office of the Broadwater County Election Administrator (515 Broadway, Townsend, MT) or at the office of The Townsend K12 District Clerk (201 N. Spruce, Townsend, MT). Forms may also be accessed at the Montana Office of Public Instruction Website. Forms require a notarized signature.

OBITUARIES

Kory David Bakkum

Family of Kory David Bakkum

August 10, 1962 – December 2, 2025

The family of Kory David Bakkum, 63, of Townsend, Montana, is heartbroken to announce that he died unexpectedly on December 2, 2025, leaving us shattered and grieving the loss of the man who was the center of our world.

Kory was born on August 10, 1962, at Livingston Memorial Hospital in Livingston, Montana, to Byron “Ben” Bakkum and Beverly (Blessum). He grew up in Livingston with his older sister Kim and graduated from Park High in 1981.

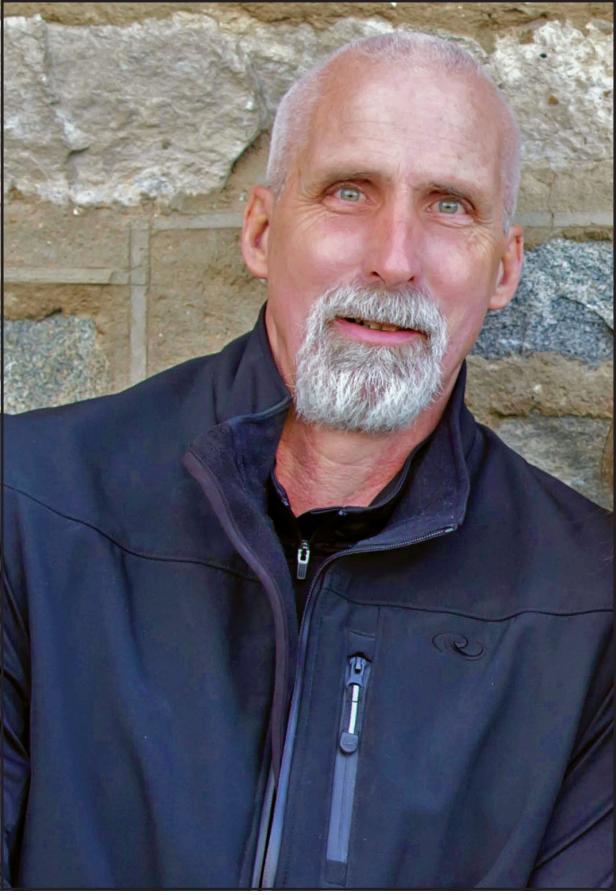
Kory played basketball at Mayville State University and earned many honors with the Comets. He was a 6’8” forward who set a record for the most points scored by a freshman (301). He went on to be named All-Conference three times and, in 1985, was named All-District 12, MVP of the NDCAC, Most Valuable Senior in the NDCAC, the leading rebounder in District 12, and the fifth in rebounding nationwide.

A four-year starter, he was instrumental in bringing NDCAC championships to Mayville State in 1983 and 1985. Kory played semi-professional basketball in Bamberg, West Germany and Melbourne, Australia. In 1997, Kory was inducted into the Mayville State University Athletic Hall of Fame. This was the first time that MSU had both a father and son inducted into the Hall of Fame and his dad, Ben, was so proud to be the one to present the award.

Kory began his career as a math teacher and coach in Halliday, North Dakota. After two years, he moved to Victor, Montana, where he taught for just over a decade. In 1997, he married Denise (Anderson), and they remained in Victor until 2001. From 2001 until his retirement in 2016, Kory taught in Townsend, Montana. While in Townsend, he coached basketball and volleyball, even assisting in their State Championship season. He served one year as the head volleyball coach and then named himself “the worst volleyball coach in the history of Townsend Schools!” Kory taught both of his own children in their high school math classes. After retirement, he subbed and volunteered and eventually he jumped in as a custodian in the new elementary school. At the time of his death, Kory was the “big, tall janitor” on the second floor. His love for kids of all ages made the job something he looked forward to. He had as many great stories about the littles as he had when he taught the bigs.

Kory also had a career on the golf course. Not as a professional golfer, although he probably could have, but as a groundskeeper. His years at Old Baldy saw him go from mowing and weed-eating to becoming the official superintendent. The course was a source of pride and frustration! He kept it green and made it better. He loved it and hated it and cussed it and missed it when the season ended.

Kory and his son, John, shared a love for math and all things sports. He watched John develop his talent for basketball and golf, not just as a player, but as a



Kory David Bakkum
Photo Provided by Family of Kory David Bakkum

coach. He loved the way John’s mind worked and he was so proud of the man he had become. Kory taught him through word and deed to work hard, to be humble. John followed in his dad’s footsteps as a teacher and coach in Fairfield. Kory and Denise had planned to try to make it to as many Eagles games as possible this season to “watch John coach.”

Kory took every opportunity to drive to Missoula to be with his daughter, Joy. From the moment she was born, she stole his heart. She made him giggle like nobody else could. He liked to say that because of her, he got to see the world. She led us to NYC and Vegas. She pulled him out of his comfort zone and fascinated him with her talent on the stage. One of his proudest moments was watching her on stage in the MCT production of “Puffs.” They talked about cooking, and dogs and they shared that mischievous sense of humor. She was the light of his life.

Kory is loved beyond measure by his wife, Denise, and their children, John and Joy. He will be forever missed by his sister, Kim. He married into a big, loud family and he loved them all. Even if he called you a “freak,” he meant it with love. He leaves behind that family, which includes Denise’s parents, John and Amy; Denise’s siblings and their children: Jason (Jessica) and Eli; Chris, and Jenny (Kyle). He was so proud to be Uncle Kory to Miya, Sylvia, Jenny and Percy. He loved Denise’s Grandma Jean and Grandpa Herb. He enjoyed Christmas in Shawmut and spending time with all of Denise’s aunts, uncles and cousins.

Kory’s parents, Ben and Beverly, preceded him in death. We believe he is safely in God’s hands, but we will miss him for the rest of our lives.

To honor his legacy, the Kory Bakkum Memorial Scholarship has been established. This scholarship will help future students pursue their goals with the same determination and heart that defined Kory’s life. Donations in his honor may be made to this fund.

Kenneth Arthur Short

Family of Kenneth Arthur Short

September 27, 1938 – November 3, 2025

Kenneth Arthur Short, age 87, was the son of the late Charles & Velma (Kernan) Short of Westfield, PA. He was preceded in death by a brother, Bernard Joe. Ken was born on September 27, 1938, in Clymer, PA. Ken passed away peacefully on November 3, 2025, with loved ones by his side.

He was a 1956 graduate from Cowanesque Valley High School in Westfield, PA, served honorably in the U.S. Army, and later became an entrepreneur in Pennsylvania and Florida. Ken is remembered for his joy of life, friendship, business acumen, and love for cars.

He is survived by a daughter, Anita (Short) Grover of North Venice, FL, and two sons, Kimberlee Short and Kevin Short, both of Tallahassee, FL. Ken was also a beloved uncle, grandfather, and great-grandfather, cherished by his numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who will carry forward his memory.

A celebration of Ken’s life was held on December



Kenneth Arthur Short
Photo Provided by Family of Kenneth Arthur Short

3, 2025, at Bougainvillea Cemetery in Avon Park, FL. Ken will be deeply missed by all who loved him.

Sauerbraten: The Opposite of Roast Turkey?

Eileen Clarke
Rifles and Recipes



I can make an argument for that. Roast turkey is tasty, but it’s white meat, with a pale gravy. Pale and pale. Sauerbraten? It’s a vibrant, dynamic in-your-face piece of the Old World. Once the turkey has been picked clean, let’s wrestle a goose out of the freezer and break open the spice rack. And if you don’t have waterfowl, venison will work as well.

Most important part of this recipe? You have to keep the marinade: it’s the cooking sauce. We’re all so used to pouring the marinade into the sink, but DON’T. Meanwhile, while the sauerbraten stews, boil some potatoes. Serve them sliced or mashed, with sauerbraten poured on top. Finally, don’t forget to bone out the thighs. There’s lots of meat there, and thigh meat is just as good as breast meat.



Eileen and Lena with Alberta Geese
Photo Credit: Eileen Clarke

Sauerbraten with Ginger Snaps

Makes 4 cups/1 quart

The Brine Ingredients

- 1 whole Canada goose, boned out (about 1½ pounds)
- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup cold water
- 1 onion, chopped
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 9 whole cloves
- 5 bay leaves, crumbled
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons white pepper

The Rest of the Ingredients

- 1 cup flour
- ⅔ cup oil
- 4 ginger snap cookies, about 1 cup crumbled

Preparation

1. Cut the boned goose meat into 2” wide, ¼” thick strips. Combine the vinegar, water, onion, brown sugar, cloves, bay leaves, salt and white pepper in a re-sealable plastic bag. Add the goose meat and refrigerate 48-72 hours.
2. Remove the meat from the marinade and set it aside. Pour the marinade into a sieve set into a bowl--be sure to save it. That’s the cooking sauce. Dry the meat with paper towels. Pour the flour into a re-sealable bag and shake the pieces of meat in the flour. Dust off the excess so you have only a light coating of flour.

Cooking

1. Heat the oven to 250°F. Pour the drained marinade into a 3-quart enameled Dutch oven and turn the heat on that up to medium. Now you can throw away the solids left in the sieve--onions, bay leaves and cloves--from the marinade.
2. In a 10 to 12 inch skillet, heat half of the oil over medium to medium-high heat until it starts to smoke. Sauté the pieces of goose in 2 batches, not overcrowding the pan, until just lightly browned. When the first batch is done, wipe out the pan, add the other half of the oil and let it heat up before adding the next batch. (It won’t take long, so keep an eye on it.) As you brown the meat, toss the finished pieces into the Dutch oven with the marinade.
3. If the sauce isn’t already simmering when you’re done browning the meat, bring the Dutch oven up to a simmer. Cover the Dutch oven, then transfer it to the preheated oven, in the center, horizontally and vertically. Cook about 2 hours, or until the meat is tender, checking the moisture once or twice so it doesn’t burn. (See page 20 for more on that.) Just before serving, crumble 4 to 6 ginger snaps, to taste, into the sauce and stir them in well. They will sweeten the sauce and thicken it, too.

This recipe is from Eileen’s wild game cookbook, The Wild Bowl—100 wild game soups, stews and chilies. It’s available at www.riflesandrecipes.com/406-521-0273 and Goose Bay Glass, Reading Leaves and Birdie’s Eclectic Emporium right here in Townsend.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

MY WIFE IS NOW UPSET WITH ME BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE'S UPSET. SHOULDN'T THAT BE AGAINST THE RULES?



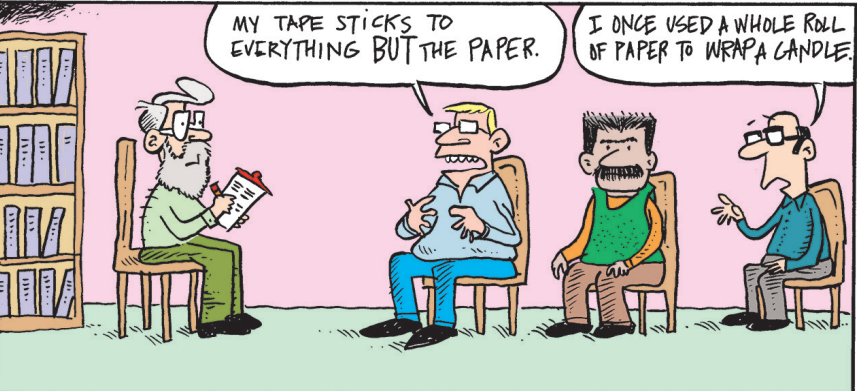
GRIN and BEAR IT



“Could you manage a little less bah-humbug and a little more ho-ho-ho?”

Out on a Limb

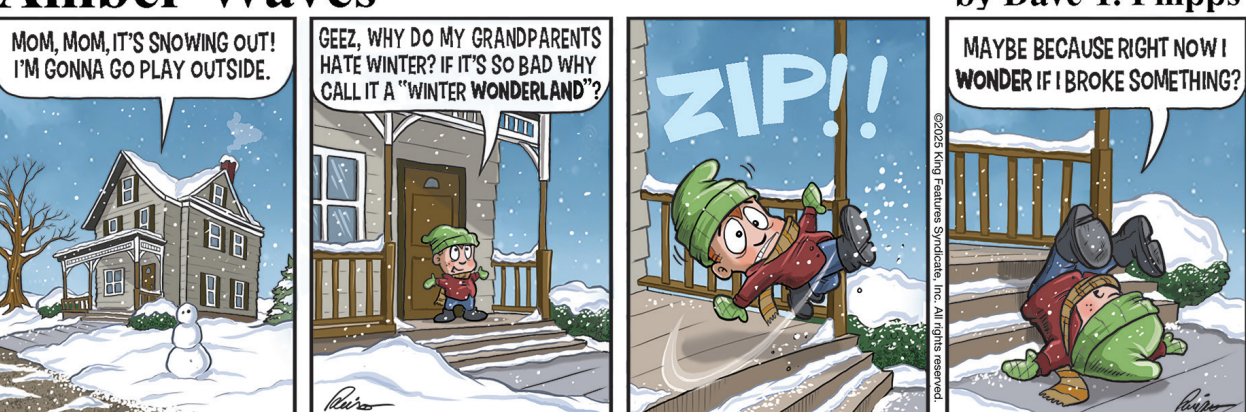
by Gary Kopervas



SUPPORT GROUP FOR BAD GIFT WRAPPERS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



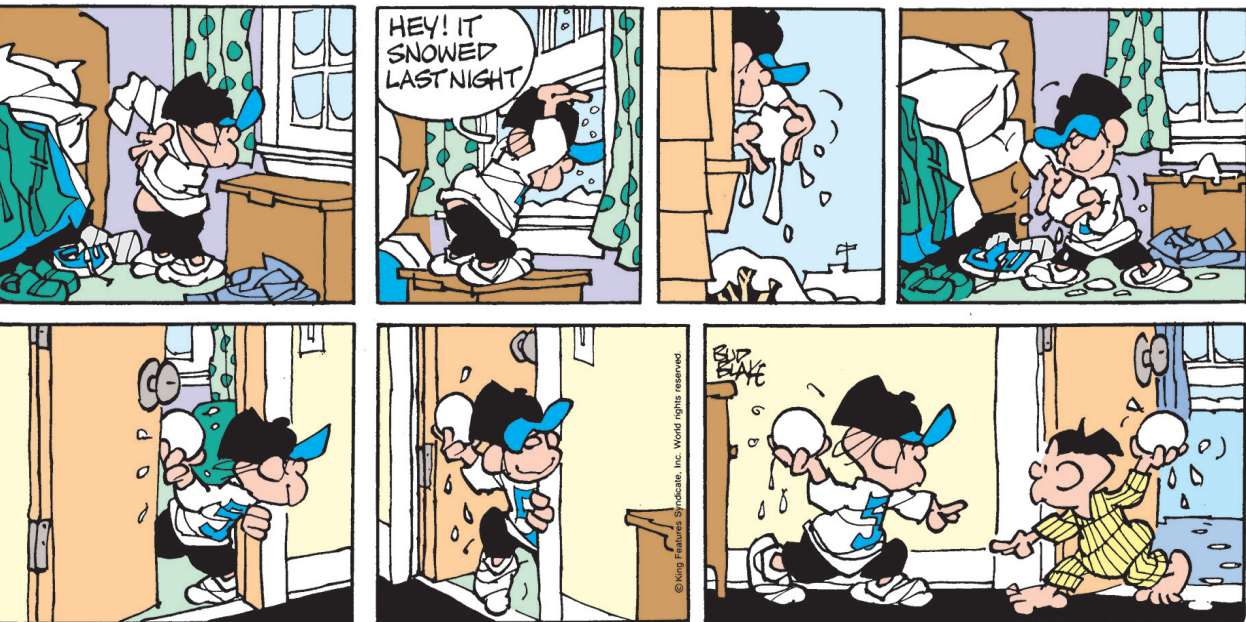
THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

5	6	7	9	8	1	3	4	2
9	3	4	7	2	6	8	1	5
1	8	2	4	5	3	7	9	6
3	2	5	6	9	8	1	7	4
7	9	1	2	4	5	6	8	3
8	4	6	3	1	7	2	5	9
4	7	9	8	6	2	5	3	1
6	5	8	1	3	4	9	2	7
2	1	3	5	7	9	4	6	8

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Answers

P	O	S	T	I	T	S	K	E	E	P	S	A	K	E	A	L	G	A					
U	P	T	O	B	A	T	A	T	R	A	N	D	O	M	B	E	L	L					
B	R	O	W	N	F	O	R	T	H	E	C	O	U	N	T	R	E	A	L				
S	Y	N	E	T	U	E	O	L	D	M	A	T	Z	O									
			E	L	F	T	O	O	G	O	O	D	T	O	B	E	D	R	E	W			
P	A	M	E	L	A				P	A	N	T	S			S	T	E	E	D			
I	N	A	T	U	F	T	S	S	P	O	T			B	E	A	R		V	O	L		
L	O	S	T		T	O	M			O	R	E	S		O	L	I	V	A				
O	T	O	E	S		T	U	P	A	C			E	T	A	S		I	N	E	Z		
T	E	N		P	H	O	T	O	G	R	A	P	H	I	C	E	M	O	R				
			P	E	A			P	A	U	L	A			A	A	A						
L	A	M	E	D	U	K	E	P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T		H	A	M			
A	N	A	S		L	I	M	E		L	O	R	E	N			S	H	U	L	A		
I	N	G	O	T		L	I	D	O			L	I	P			O	L	I	N			
D	I	N		R	I	O	T		L	O	C	K	E	D			I	N	P	A	C	E	
		H	A	B	I	T			F	A	U	N	A				G	U	I	S	E	S	
R	I	C	E	T	O	T	H	E		F	I	N	I	S	H			I	N	K			
E	L	A	T	E		R	A	D			T	E	A				G	I	S	H			
B	A	R	T		G	E	T	O	U	T	O	F	Y	A			L	E	F	R	E	E	
E	T	T	E		I	N	E	R	R	A	N	T					P	I	V	O	T	E	D
L	E	A	R			S	T	R	A	I	N	E	D				S	T	A	R	S	K	Y

Barnes Jewelry

357 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena MT

406-442-3000

CryptoQuip

answer

If you believe everybody who says they've found a water-worn ravine, I guess you're gully-ble.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Rocket; 2. Devour; 3. Brain; 4. Escort

Today's Word

BREAK

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

O	E	T
I		T
T	S	L

STILETTO

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Townsend’s 2025 Christmas Stroll



Even the Grinch made an appearance
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Santa and Mrs. Claus pass out candy to the kids
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Matt Nelson



There were a lot of happy faces in Townsend on the evening of Saturday, December 7th, while the annual Christmas Stroll was going on. Sponsored by the Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club, Broadway Street was jammed packed with people lined up to see the parade and wandering in most of the stores that were open and offered treats.

Santa’s Workshop, located on the lot at the corner of Broadway and Front Street, had a stream of parents taking their kids to see the big guy himself. Santa and Mrs. Claus warmly greeted the kids, gave them candy, and asked what they wanted for Christmas. Naturally, the kids were excited and had the biggest grins.

But these kids were not the only people with happy grins – Emily, Violet, Char, Baylee, and Madison, ladies working at the Mountie Moose Bakery, made the older people pleased with the tasty donuts they served.

The Rotary Club was responsible for putting up all the strings of lights on the big tree at Mazza Park, and they did a good job of it, too. The tree looked very nice. Nearby, there was a snow globe about six feet in

diameter, which was excellently made.

Leading off the parade was the Chamber of Commerce car, and an unidentified man from the U.S. Forest Service riding a horse followed a trailer with a banner on the side which said “Precision Business Resources” and had several adults throwing candy. Behind them a pick-up truck with several strings of Christmas lights and a big blow-up Santa had kids near me saying “Oohs and Ahs!” Following the truck with the big blow Santa were several Junior High and High School girls wearing Santa Claus hats and jackets that said “Vigilantes” (probably from East Helena) marched and waved batons.

Also in the parade there were pick-up and/of flat bed trucks that represented several businesses or organizations, such as the Broadwater County Bull Dogs, Broadwater Community Theater, Little Creek Feed, and a green Grinch Santa standing in a flat bed trailer. A couple high school kids drove a decorated John Deere tractor with a trailer holding more kids.

The Townsend STOKE organization’s van was in the parade, as well as another truck with kids in back and a label on the truck saying FIREBRAND FORESTRY. The most interesting parade vehicle was very well decorated with many lights, had two reindeer, and



Giant snow globe near Massa Park
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

a very tall Christmas tree.

At the end of the parade the Rotary Club had a trailer with a log cabin on it, with some kids standing behind the cabin near a Christmas tree, and at the back of the trailer was a red sleigh holding another (fake) tree with the words, “Santa’s Tree Delivery.”

All of you participants did a very good job. Thanks, and Merry Christmas to all of you and your families.



Best decorated truck
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Here comes Santa Claus
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Greetings from Italy

Carolyn Peace

Why Trani? Why did we choose Trani?

We have traveled to Italy some 35 times, starting in 1992. We first came to Trani in 2021 to see the area and use it as a base while we traveled along the Adriatic Sea Coast. We met a young couple and owners of one of the local coffee shops. We remained in contact with them after we returned to Montana.

In the spring of 202,3 we decided to return to Trani for three months. We carefully checked out the town and met several local residents and an American couple from California. We decided that a second three-month period was needed. We returned in December of 2023, and at that time we decided this was the right location for us.

We proceeded to move forward and looked at an apartment that was being renovated. Our realtor and

friend wrote the rental contract for us (the contract has to be in Italian and English). We returned to Montana in March and started the process. With all the documentation compiled, we began the visa process in April and were approved in August of 2024.

Even local residents ask us, "Why Trani?" We always say it's the people. We are friends with people we meet on our walks, shop owners, and a group of expats from England, California, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Canada.

In conclusion, if you go to a foreign country for two or three weeks, don't assume this is the right place for you. We recommend staying for a three-month period for at least two different seasons of the year. For us, Trani is too warm from late June until the middle of September. The other months of the year the weather is very mild and comfortable.

The most difficult thing for us is the language, but the locals are helping us and we are learning.



Out for Pizza with friends
Photo Credit: Carolyn Peace

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